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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 835  
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Reverend W. A. Sesley  
for his laudable service to the Morning Star  
Church World Wide Ministry and the Memphis  
community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body honor those citizens who  
have wholeheartedly given of themselves in the service of their faith, dedicating their lives and  
careers to the spiritual welfare and enrichment of their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable individual is Reverend W. A. Sesley, who is the  
Founder and Pastor of Morning Star Church World Wide Ministry; and

WHEREAS, raised in Orange Mound, he has been a highly regarded student of Melrose  
High School, Memphis State University, Moody Bible College, and Union University; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sesley began his professional career as a Line Operator at Hunt  
Wesson; through his hard work and diligence, he was quickly promoted to Chief Union Steward;  
and

WHEREAS, while still working full-time at Hunt Wesson, Reverend W. A. Sesley  
founded the Morning Star Church in 1965 to serve the spiritual needs of all individuals,

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regardless of religion or race; shortly thereafter, he resigned from Hunt Wesson to devote his life to the ministry; and

WHEREAS, for thirty-seven years, he has graciously served as the Pastor of the Morning Star Church, daily overseeing the church's operations, teaching classes, and extending spiritual guidance; and

WHEREAS, a man of stalwart commitment and great faith, Reverend Sesley has earned the respect and affection of his congregation and the Memphis community for his integrity, dedication, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend W. A. Sesley's astute guidance, the Morning Star Church World Wide Ministry has grown from its initial seventeen members to over 700 members; and

WHEREAS, Morning Star Church acquired lots at the corner of Inman and Park Avenue for parking in the early 1980s; completed a \$450,000 expansion project in 1988; expanded and modernized their facilities to accommodate their ever growing congregation in August of 2000; and purchased property at 3125 Park Avenue, in October of 2000, to house Ministry, Outreach, Mentoring (M.O.M.), a solution-oriented program based in the belief that change for the better can be achieved through the extension of the Ministry of God, through the Word of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, an innovative and visionary leader, Reverend Sesley has been instrumental in Morning Star Church's construction of the W. A. Sesley Wholistic Recreational Community Center to serve its congregation and the Memphis community; a safe haven for the people of Memphis, one of the Center's functions will be to host a challenging and fun-filled summer camp for children ages 4 through 13 years old; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sesley and the faithful congregation of the Morning Star Church World Wide Ministry celebrated the much anticipated opening of the W. A. Sesley Wholistic Recreation Community Center on April 14, 2002 at a ribbon cutting ceremony and on April 28, 2000 at a dedication service; and

WHEREAS, compelled to make a positive difference in the Memphis community, Reverend W. A. Sesley helped to secure a \$7.8 million dollar Section 8 grant from HUD to renovate the Vollintine Court Apartments; when the 200-unit project was successfully completed, Reverend Sesley undertook the management of the apartments and the name was changed to Saints Court Apartments; the property was later sold to the City of Memphis to be used by the Memphis Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sesley has dedicated his time and energies to the betterment of his community, serving as a leader in several professional and civic organizations; he is the Chairman of Tennessee One Church One Child; President of the Regional National Business League, an organization established to bring about affordable housing for people of low and moderate income; Member of the Board of Teen Challenge; and Vice-President of Agape Whole Life Fellowship, Inc; he has served with distinction as Vice-President of the African Ecumenical Task Force, which was comprised of 150 Memphis area churches; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sesley exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he is a loving husband to his wife and a devoted father to his six children; and

WHEREAS, Reverend W. A. Sesley epitomizes the ideal of the consummate citizen, dedicated spiritual leader, and reliable friend and neighbor; his life of service and goodwill stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, he is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Reverend W. A. Sesley, Founder and Pastor of the Morning Star Church World Wide Ministry, commend his devotion and faith,

acknowledge his many achievements, especially the opening of the W. A. Sesley Wholistic Recreation Community Center, express our appreciation for his meritorious service to the Memphis community, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.